

WCEA celebrates the *Year of the Nurse & Midwife* with the gift of free, accredited Continuing Professional Development to nurses and midwives across the globe

- ✓ ***One Million nursing & midwifery courses delivered in LMICs.***
- ✓ ***200, 000 nurse & midwife learners registered and equipped.***
- ✓ ***220, 000 COVID-19 courses completed by nurses & midwives.***

(31st August 2020) On 16th January 2020, the World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA) launched a commitment: Project 2020 - with the objective of taking free, accredited healthcare education to frontline health workers in low and middle-income countries, in recognition of the extraordinary contribution of nurses and midwives and in celebration of the *Year of the Nurse and Midwife*, as 2020 is designated by the World Health Organization.

Just 7 months later, and in the throes of a global pandemic with nurses and midwives on the frontlines everywhere, WCEA has reached more than 200, 000 of these skilled and courageous health care professionals with one million courses, including 220, 000 focused on COVID-19.

“ WCEA has been with these precious front line health workers every day, ensuring the free delivery of up to date, accredited courses and information from the most qualified sources, including The Aga Khan University (SONAM), RCNi, Royal College of Midwives, John Hopkins University CCP and many additional outstanding institutions,” said David Montgomery, WCEA Chief Executive Officer. “We are grateful to the International Council of Nurses, our partners, sponsors, stakeholders, and our skilled and committed team, for all of their support in this magnificent achievement”

Field Impact

The WCEA platform has been designed not just to deliver education but to create a continual feedback loop to all stakeholders. Information collected from frontline works is feedback to the educators and the in-country Ministries of Health, Health Professions Councils and Associations, enabling continual improvement.

“Wow, today I just learned about premature labour and pre labour rupture of membranes, reminding me of many things that I had forgotten since college. I encountered a client with premature rupture of the membranes. Having adequate knowledge from the app, I was able to save a life today”
Renson Manono, Midwife Kenya.

“With the advent of the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic, there were a lot of erroneous perceptions about the disease making the rounds. Even healthcare workers fell victim of these false perceptions. However, ever since I was introduced to the WCEA by a colleague I have learned a lot about the virus... Furthermore, I also encourage my colleagues to this wonderful platform created by WCEA”
Ibrahim Abdullahi, Nurse Nigeria.

The World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA) is a UK healthcare education company with offices in UK and Spain, Providing sustainable e-learning and mobile learning solutions to the Ministries of Health, Health Professions Councils, and Professional Associations to build capacity in CPD & Lifelong learning. For more information <https://wcea.education/> or contact Craig Fitzpatrick, 2020 Project Director craig.fitzpatrick@wcea.education

Project 2020 Background and Objectives:

- To deliver a technical platform to frontline health workers (FLHW's), through organizations (ministries of health, profession councils and associations) in low-middle-income countries, building capacity in Continuous Professional Development (CPD), with clear long-term Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's)
- Improve readiness for response to pandemics such as COVID-19
- Solving the self-study and relicensure challenges through technology and innovation, which include offline use, resource sharing, support for low capacity networks and varied devices including mobile Smartphones
- Improving the in-field skills of nurses and midwives and other FLHW's, through skill updates and attainment monitoring, to deliver better health outcomes

Key Achievements:

- 1 Million CPD Courses delivered in under 7 months from launch
- 200,000 app downloads
- 200,000+ users
- Nearly 300,000 courses being delivered per month
- Over 450 training modules on platform
- COVID-19
 - Within 1-week, initial COVID-19 courses released on platform
 - 40 courses delivered in total, covering topics such as PPE and Psychological Support for Healthcare Workers
 - 220,000 courses completed by 7Nurses & Midwives
- Collation of in-depth registry of FLHW's, with detailed demographic information (age, location, gender, employer) and individual capabilities (specialties, education)
- Ghana – Most registered number of nurses and midwives.
- Nigeria – Most number of courses studied and completed.

Launch of Global Community (AJA)

- Launched in July 2020
- Community/social platform used by 20,000+ Nurses and Midwives
- Communication channel for Ministries of Health (MOH), Professional Councils and Associations to communicate important information to their members

Furthering Accessibility

WCEA is happy to announce a partnership with Mara Phones; the first African manufactured high-tech smartphones available at affordable prices. Mara Phones is committed to having a social impact and one of the focal areas is digital health and education, enabling people across varied demographics to study online and offline. We will be announcing further details of this partnership in the near future. This partnership will further drive the access of health education to frontline health workers, building on WCEA's commitment of making education accessible to all.

Partner Testimonials

“The wonderful corporation from all partners has driving the success of this project. This has been a challenging year for frontline health workers, though through this, the partners have achieved an amazing outcome”

Craig Fitzpatrick, 2020 Project Director – WCEA

“Lesotho Nurses have benefited from the online CPD platform & Mobile All as nurses able to learn and develop their knowledge and skills. Nurses, midwives, and nursing assistants can access courses that are relevant to their area of work/departments, with the aim of improving their knowledge and skills. It has been easier for them to verify the treatments and management of the patients under their care at the time. Additionally, the CPD platform has enabled us to access various COVID-19 online courses, and we have indeed been capacitated to respond to the pandemic. We are indeed grateful for the opportunity that has been provided to us.

Flavia Moetsana-Poka – Registrar, Lesotho Nursing Council

“I am happy to share our experience working with WCEA as the Midwives Association of Zambia. It has been a very interesting journey from the time we got to know you about 3 to 4 years ago. You were consistent with your communication with us and we tried our best to put things on place so that our Midwives can have an opportunity to access the platform for professional development. The Zambian midwives are excited, and we have seen membership growth from about 800 to 1300 plus. This is a great milestone for us. Midwives are keen to learn and build their knowledge and skills needed to provide quality care to women and their babies.

The CPD platform is a must especially that it is a requirement for any Midwife to earn CPD point before their practicing licences is renewed. Thank you for according us this chance”

Sarah Ngoma, - President, Midwives Association of Zambia

“Before SONAM started this initiative, nurses and midwives had expressed uncertainty about how to take care of Covid-19 patients. With the intense fear of contagion and threat to mental and psychological wellbeing served as a motivation for us to develop courses that can be reached by a large proportion of nurses and midwives. The suite of courses that SONAM has developed and continues to develop are geared towards meeting the information needs of nurses and midwives who are the frontline of the Covid-19 response. It has been great working with WCEA who through their innovative online and mobile app platforms have contributed to capacity building, especially in such uncertain times. As WCEA hits the 1 million mark, I celebrate all the nurses and midwives who have been impacted by these courses and encourage them to continue the important work they are doing of healing the world. This is a great milestone, and we look forward to expanding our reach to more than 6 million nurses and midwives on the continent. I would also like to thank NCK, JIF, WCEA and ICN for all their commitment to ensuring healthcare workers in sub-Saharan Africa have access to this vital information.”

Eunice Ndirangu - Dean, The Aga Khan University (SONAM)

“WCEA opened up opportunities for Namibian nurses to develop and enhance their skills and knowledge through online courses. Through this platform, interactivity and network opportunities for all are generated. Namibian nurses embrace with open arms technological solutions and appreciate WCEA initiative for introducing to us this new education platform and mobile applications. The online platform will offer greater opportunities for nurses and midwives in Namibia to have access to both local and international updates. Through participation in the online courses, Namibian nurses are enabled to bridge the educational gap with regards to current health related updates. NNA greatly appreciate this initiative and would like to thank WCEA and ICN on this and NNA shall remain forever grateful.”

Dr Ndapeua N. Shifiona – President, Namibian Nursing Association